

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND the claims in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A search method comprising:

specifying a search word included in a search condition designated by a user;

extracting a synonym of said search word from a synonym file;

obtaining evaluation data of said search word, which is at least either of a score based on an appearance frequency of said search word and a number of documents including said search word<sub>1</sub> and evaluation data of the extracted synonym, which is at least either of a score based on an appearance frequency of said extracted synonym and a number of documents including said extracted synonym;

presenting said user with both of said search word<sub>2</sub> and said extracted synonym, along with said evaluation data of said search word<sub>2</sub> and said evaluation data of said extracted synonym<sub>1</sub> in a manner in which said search word and said extracted synonym are selectable;

receiving data representing a search word presented in said presenting and selected by said user responsive to said presenting, or data representing a synonym presented in said presenting and selected by said user responsive to said presenting; and

presenting said user with data concerning an identified document including the selected search word or the selected synonym.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The search method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said specifying comprises extracting said search word from a sentence input as said search condition by a morphological analysis.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The search method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said extracted synonym is a term other than said search condition designated by said user, and

said obtaining evaluation data comprises counting either of said number of documents including said search word and said number of documents including said extracted synonym or a first appearance frequency of said search word in said documents including said search word

and a first appearance frequency of said extracted synonym in said documents including said extracted synonym by searching documents by using said search word and said extracted synonym.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The search method as set forth in claim 3, wherein said obtaining evaluation data further comprises:

counting a second appearance frequency of said search word in a sentence input as said search condition; and

calculating said score based on said appearance frequency of said search word by using said second appearance frequency of said search word and said first appearance frequency of said search word, and said score based on said appearance frequency of said extracted synonym by using said second appearance frequency of said search word and said first appearance frequency of said extracted synonym.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The search method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said first presenting comprises:

judging whether or not said evaluation data of said search word and said evaluation data of said extracted synonym satisfies a predetermined condition; and

presenting said user with said search word or said extracted synonym whose evaluation data satisfies said predetermined condition in a state indicating being pre-selected and said search word or said extracted synonym whose evaluation data does not satisfy said predetermined condition in a state indicating being unselected.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The search method as set forth in claim 5, wherein said predetermined condition is a condition in which said number of documents including said search word or said number of documents including said extracted synonym is lower than a first threshold, or a condition in which said score based on said appearance frequency of said search word or said score based on said appearance frequency of said extracted synonym exceeds a second threshold.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The search method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said second presenting comprises:

counting, for each of said identified documents, a third appearance frequency of said selected search word in said identified document, or a third appearance frequency of said

selected synonym in said identified document; and

presenting said user with said data concerning said identified documents in order of values calculated by using said third appearance frequency of said selected search word or said third appearance frequency of said selected synonym.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A search program embodied on a computer-readable storage medium causing a computer to perform operations, said operations comprising:  
specifying a search word included in a search condition designated by a user;  
extracting a synonym of said search word from a synonym file;  
obtaining evaluation data of said search word, which is at least either of a score based on an appearance frequency of said search word and a number of documents including said search word, and evaluation data of the extracted synonym, which is at least either of a score based on an appearance frequency of said extracted synonym and a number of documents including said extracted synonym;

presenting said user with both of said search word;[[,]] and said extracted synonym, along with said evaluation data of said search word;[[,]] and said evaluation data of said extracted synonym, in a manner in which said search word and said extracted synonym are selectable;

receiving data representing a search word presented in said presenting and selected by said user responsive to said presenting, or data representing a synonym presented in said presenting and selected by said user responsive to said presenting; and

presenting said user with data concerning -an identified document including the selected search word or the selected synonym.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The search program as set forth in claim 8, wherein said specifying comprises extracting said search word from a sentence input as said search condition by a morphological analysis.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The search program as set forth in claim 8, wherein said extracted synonym is a term other than said search condition designated by said user, and said obtaining evaluation data comprises counting either of said number of documents including said search word and said number of documents including said extracted synonym or a first appearance frequency of said search word in said documents including said search word and a first appearance frequency of said extracted synonym in said documents including said

extracted synonym by searching documents by using said search word and said extracted synonym.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The search program as set forth in claim 10, wherein said obtaining evaluation data further comprises:

counting a second appearance frequency of said search word in a sentence input as said search condition; and

calculating said score based on said appearance frequency of said search word by using said second appearance frequency of said search word and said first appearance frequency of said search word, and said score based on said appearance frequency of said extracted synonym by using said second appearance frequency of said search word and said first appearance frequency of said extracted synonym.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The search program as set forth in claim 8, wherein said first presenting comprises:

judging whether or not said evaluation data of said search word and said evaluation data of said extracted synonym satisfies a predetermined condition; and

presenting said user with said search word or said extracted synonym whose evaluation data satisfies said predetermined condition in a state indicating being pre-selected and said search word or said extracted synonym whose evaluation data does not satisfy said predetermined condition in a state indicating being unselected.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The search program as set forth in claim 12, wherein said predetermined condition is a condition in which said number of documents including said search word or said number of documents including said extracted synonym is lower than a first threshold, or a condition in which said score based on said appearance frequency of said search word or said score based on said appearance frequency of said extracted synonym exceeds a second threshold.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The search program as set forth in claim 8, wherein said second presenting comprises:

counting, for each of said identified documents, a third appearance frequency of said selected search word in said identified document-documents, or a third appearance frequency of said selected synonym in said identified document; and

presenting said user with said data concerning said identified documents in order of values calculated by using said third appearance frequency of said selected search word or said third appearance frequency of said selected synonym.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A search apparatus, comprising:

a specifier that specifies a search word included in a search condition designated by a user;

an extractor that extracts a synonym of said search word from a synonym file;

an obtainer that obtains evaluation data of said search word, which is at least either of a score based on an appearance frequency of said search word and a number of documents including said search word, and evaluation data of the extracted synonym, which is at least either of a score based on an appearance frequency of said extracted synonym and a number of documents including said extracted synonym;

a first indicator that presents said user with both of said search word;[[.]] and said extracted synonym, along with said evaluation data of said search word;[[.]] and said evaluation data of said extracted synonym, in a manner in which said search word and said extracted synonym are selectable;

a processor that receives data representing a search word presented via said first indicator and selected by said user, or data representing a synonym presented via said first indicator and selected by said user responsive thereto; and

a second indicator that presents said user with data concerning an identified document including the selected search word or the selected synonym.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The search apparatus as set forth in claim 15, wherein said specifier comprises an extractor that extracts said search word from a sentence input as said search condition by a morphological analysis.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The search apparatus as set forth in claim 15, wherein said extracted synonym is a term other than said search condition designated by said user, and said obtainer comprises

a counter that counts either of said number of documents including said search word and said number of documents including said extracted synonym or a first appearance frequency of said search word ~~and~~ in said documents including said search word and a first appearance frequency of said extracted synonym in said documents including said extracted synonym by

searching documents by using said search word and said extracted synonym.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The search apparatus as set forth in claim 17, wherein said obtainer further comprises:

a second counter that counts a second appearance frequency of said search word in a sentence input as said search condition; and

a calculator that calculates said score based on said appearance frequency of said search word by using said second appearance frequency of said search word and said first appearance frequency of said search word, and said score based on said appearance frequency of said extracted synonym by using said second appearance frequency of said search word and ~~said search word and said first appearance frequency of said extracted synonym.~~

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The search apparatus as set forth in claim 15, wherein said first indicator comprises:

a processor that judges whether or not said evaluation data of said search word and said evaluation data of said extracted synonym satisfies a predetermined condition; and

an indicator that presents said user with said search word or said extracted synonym whose evaluation data satisfies said predetermined condition in a state indicating being pre-selected and said search word or said extracted synonym whose evaluation data does not satisfy said predetermined condition in a state indicating being unselected.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The search apparatus as set forth in claim 19, wherein said predetermined condition is a condition in which said number of documents including said search word or said number of documents including said extracted synonym is lower than a first threshold, or a condition in which said score based on said appearance frequency of said search word or said score based on said appearance frequency of said extracted synonym exceeds a second threshold.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The search apparatus as set forth in claim 15, wherein said second indicator comprises:

a counter that counts, for each of said identified documents, a third appearance frequency of said selected search word in said identified document, or a third appearance frequency of said selected synonym in said identified document; and

an indicator that presents said user with said data concerning said identified documents

in order of values calculated by using said third appearance frequency of said selected search word or said third appearance frequency of said selected synonym.